
HOUSE BILL 2557

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Dye, Blake, Kretz, Eslick, Gildon, and Volz

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to simplifying the hunting seasons and
2 regulations pamphlet published by the department of fish and
3 wildlife; adding a new section to chapter 77.32 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) While hunting participation has been
7 in decline recently, it is still an important activity for many
8 Washingtonians as an opportunity to put healthy, local food on the
9 table and foster a greater understanding and respect for where food
10 comes from.

11 (2) The legislature recognizes that the duty of the department of
12 fish and wildlife to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the
13 wildlife of the state includes setting hunting seasons and bag limits
14 to ensure healthy wildlife populations and hunting opportunities into
15 the future. Part of that responsibility includes communicating
16 information about hunting seasons and regulations to the public.

17 (3) The legislature finds that the hunting seasons and
18 regulations pamphlet published for the hunting season beginning April
19 1, 2019, is more than one hundred thirty pages long and contains
20 complicated legal descriptions of game management units, which makes
21 it a difficult resource to use out in the field. Further, the

1 complicated information presented in this format may act as a
2 deterrent to some who may otherwise hunt, contributing to the decline
3 in hunting participation.

4 (4) In 1969, the Washington game department published hunting
5 seasons and bag limits in the form of a one page, foldable document
6 with information about hunting seasons on one side, and a Washington
7 state highway map with an overlay of each game management unit on the
8 other side. The legislature finds that this format would be much more
9 usable for hunters out in the field than a booklet containing more
10 than one hundred thirty pages of information.

11 (5) The legislature intends to direct the department of fish and
12 wildlife to simplify the current complicated hunting seasons and
13 regulations pamphlet and design the pamphlet with inspiration from
14 the 1969 publication.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.32
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) Each hunting season, the department must publish the hunting
18 seasons and regulations on a two-sided foldable document that
19 includes a map of Washington containing, at a minimum:

20 (a) Federal, state, and county roadways;

21 (b) Federally designated wilderness area, national forest,
22 military reservation, and national park boundaries;

23 (c) Indian reservation boundaries;

24 (d) County boundaries; and

25 (e) Game management unit boundaries.

26 (2) The reverse side of the document must include: Hunting season
27 dates and regulations by species; general regulations and laws
28 pertaining to hunting; any special license requirements; and contact
29 information for each of the department's regional offices and
30 headquarters.

31 (3) The document may also contain any other additional
32 information that would help hunters in the field understand and abide
33 by hunting regulations.

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